

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE  
HICKMAN COUNTY  
CLERK**

**For The Year Ended  
December 31, 2007**



**CRIT LUALLEN  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE HICKMAN COUNTY CLERK**

**For The Year Ended  
December 31, 2007**

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Hickman County Clerk's audit for the year ended December 31, 2007. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

#### **Financial Condition:**

Excess fees increased by \$4,483 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$4,483 as of December 31, 2007. Revenues increased by \$130,461 from the prior year and expenditures increased by \$125,978.

#### **Lease Obligation:**

The County Clerk's office was committed to a lease agreement for a copier. The outstanding balance for this agreement was \$2,209 as of December 31, 2007.

#### **Report Comment:**

- The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

#### **Deposits:**

The County Clerk's deposits as of April 10, 2007 were exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

- Uncollateralized and Uninsured    \$26,646

The County Clerk's deposits were covered by FDIC insurance and a properly executed collateral security agreement, but the bank did not adequately collateralize the County Clerk's deposits in accordance with the security agreement.



## CONTENTS

PAGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT .....	1
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS .....	3
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT.....	6
REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS.....	11
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION.....	15





CRIT LUALLEN  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Greg Pruitt, Hickman County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable James Berry, Hickman County Clerk  
Members of the Hickman County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the County Clerk of Hickman County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2007. This financial statement is the responsibility of the County Clerk. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the County Clerk's office prepares the financial statement on a regulatory basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees of the County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2007, in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated August 14, 2008 on our consideration of the County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



The Honorable Greg Pruitt, Hickman County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable James Berry, Hickman County Clerk  
Members of the Hickman County Fiscal Court

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

- The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the County Clerk and Fiscal Court of Hickman County, Kentucky, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen  
Auditor of Public Accounts

August 14, 2008



HICKMAN COUNTY  
JAMES BERRY, COUNTY CLERK  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2007

Revenues

State Fees For Services	\$	2,487	
Fiscal Court			5,844
Licenses and Taxes:			
Motor Vehicle-			
Licenses and Transfers	\$	199,485	
Usage Tax		431,703	
Tangible Personal Property Tax		394,146	
Other-			
Fish and Game Licenses		15,619	
Marriage Licenses		2,237	
Deed Transfer Tax		16,323	
Delinquent Tax		<u>62,579</u>	1,122,092
Fees Collected for Services:			
Recordings-			
Deeds, Easements, and Contracts		6,090	
Real Estate Mortgages		9,877	
Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements		15,520	
Powers of Attorney		106	
All Other Recordings		8,825	
Charges for Other Services-			
Copywork		1,034	
Title Applications		971	
Marginal Releases		39	
Lien Fees		120	
Miscellaneous		<u>561</u>	43,143
Interest Earned			<u>440</u>
Total Revenues			1,174,006

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement

HICKMAN COUNTY  
 JAMES BERRY, COUNTY CLERK  
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES – REGULATORY BASIS  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2007  
 (Continued)

Expenditures

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers	\$ 151,352	
Usage Tax	418,789	
Tangible Personal Property Tax	148,758	
Licenses, Taxes, and Fees-		
Fish and Game Licenses	15,294	
Delinquent Tax	7,265	
Legal Process Tax	6,039	
Affordable Housing Trust	<u>7,326</u>	\$ 754,823

Payments to Fiscal Court:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	33,157	
Delinquent Tax	7,963	
Deed Transfer Tax	<u>15,507</u>	56,627

Payments to Other Districts:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	193,916	
Delinquent Tax	<u>31,350</u>	225,266

Payments to Sheriff 786

Payments to County Attorney 9,302

Operating Expenditures and Capital Outlay:

Personnel Services-	
Deputies' Salaries	49,159
Contracted Services-	
Printing and Binding	1,140
Materials and Supplies-	
Office Supplies	1,102
Other Charges-	
Conventions and Travel	200
Dues	250
Postage	1,254
Software Maintenance	2,750

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement

HICKMAN COUNTY  
 JAMES BERRY, COUNTY CLERK  
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES – REGULATORY BASIS  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2007  
 (Continued)

Expenditures (Continued)

Operating Expenditures and Capital Outlay: (Continued)

Other Charges- (Continued)

Refunds	\$	170	
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Miscellaneous		44	
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Capital Outlay-

Office Equipment		1,245	\$ 57,314
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Total Expenditures			\$ 1,104,118
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Net Revenues			69,888
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Less: Statutory Maximum			60,958
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Excess Fees			8,930
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Less: Expense Allowance		3,600	
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Training Incentive Benefit		847	4,447
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Excess Fees Due County for 2007			4,483
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Payment to Fiscal Court - December 31, 2007			4,483
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Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit			\$ 0
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HICKMAN COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2007

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of revenues over expenditures to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the County Clerk as determined by the audit. KRS 64.152 requires the County Clerk to settle excess fees with the fiscal court by March 15 each year.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under this regulatory basis of accounting, revenues and expenditures are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive), at December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2007 services
- Reimbursements for 2007 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections and payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2007

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

HICKMAN COUNTY  
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
 December 31, 2007  
 (Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county officials and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan that covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members.

Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute. Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5.0 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 13.19 percent for the first six months and 16.17 percent for the last six months of the year.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65.

Historical trend information pertaining to CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report which is a matter of public record. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

Note 3. Deposits

The County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the County Clerk and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the County Clerk's deposits may not be returned. The County Clerk does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of December 31, 2007, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement. However, as of April 10, 2007, public funds were exposed to custodial credit risk because the bank did not adequately collateralize the County Clerk's deposits in accordance with the security agreement.

- Uncollateralized and Uninsured      \$26,646

HICKMAN COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 2007  
(Continued)

Note 4. Lease

The office of the County Clerk was committed to a lease agreement with Xerox Corporation for a copier. The agreement requires a monthly payment of \$82 for 60 months to be completed in March 2010. The total balance of the agreement was \$2,209 as of December 31, 2007.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND  
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL  
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS







CRIT LUALLEN  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Greg Pruitt, Hickman County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable James Berry, Hickman County Clerk  
Members of the Hickman County Fiscal Court

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And  
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial  
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the Hickman County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated August 14, 2008. The County Clerk's financial statement is prepared in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Hickman County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Hickman County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Hickman County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with the regulatory basis of accounting such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statement that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control over financial reporting. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying comment and recommendation to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting.

- The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And  
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial  
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards  
(Continued)

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (Continued)

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statement will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we consider the significant deficiency described above to be a material weakness.

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Hickman County Clerk's financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2007, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

The Hickman County Clerk's response to the finding identified in our audit is included in the accompanying comment and recommendation. We did not audit the County Clerk's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Hickman County Fiscal Court, and the Department for Local Government and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,



Crit Luallen  
Auditor of Public Accounts

August 14, 2008

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION



HICKMAN COUNTY  
JAMES BERRY, COUNTY CLERK  
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

For The Year Ended December 31, 2007

INTERNAL CONTROL - MATERIAL WEAKNESS:

The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

The Hickman County Clerk's office has a lack of adequate segregation of duties over receipts and disbursements. The County Clerk performs all bookkeeping functions. He prepares the consolidated daily checkout sheets, monthly bank reconciliations, and signs checks for disbursements. The County Clerk's office has one full-time deputy employed; therefore the County Clerk has limited options for establishing an adequate segregation of duties. In order to help compensate for the lack of segregation of duties, we recommend the County Clerk share the bookkeeping functions and daily checkout responsibilities with his deputy on a rotated basis. The County Clerk could also require dual signatures on all checks for disbursements.

*County Clerk's Response: I have only 1 full time deputy and I have started letting her review the daily checkout. With limited help we try to let 2 people check as often as we can.*

